

AT MT. VERNON.

Impressive Ceremonies Were Held Yesterday.

PRESIDENT WM. M'KINLEY'S

Address Delivered at the Tomb of Him Who Was First in War, First in Peace and First in the Hearts of His Countrymen—An Eloquent and Fitting Tribute to the Great Washington by America's Great President.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Mt. Vernon was the scene to-day of the most unique and impressive ceremony in its rich and picturesque history. Masons of high degree from all over the United States and Canada met at the tomb of Washington in services commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the death of the greatest American. President McKinley delivered an eloquent tribute to the memory of the first President, and senators and representatives to Congress, high officials of the government and distinguished private citizens were participants and spectators of the solemn service.

Later in the day, when the Masonic ceremonies had been concluded, the Independent Order of Red Men succeeded them in honoring the memory of Washington with the rites of their order.

The Masons went from this city to Mt. Vernon by steamer. Headed by Colonel Robert White, of Wheeling, W. Va., the grand marshal, the procession marched to the wharf and embarked. At Alexandria they were joined by the Federal grand lodge of Virginia, and the journey to Mt. Vernon was resumed.

President McKinley left the white house shortly before ten o'clock and was taken to Mt. Vernon by a special train on an electric line.

Following is the address of President McKinley:

"We have just participated in a service commemorative of the one hundredth anniversary of the death of George Washington. Here at his old home, which he loved so well and which the patriotic women of the country have guarded with loving hands, exercises are conducted under the auspices of the great fraternity of Masons which a century ago planned and executed the solemn ceremonial which attended the father of his country to his tomb. The lodge in which he was initiated and the one over which he afterwards presided as worshipful master, accorded positions of honor at his obsequies, are to-day represented here in token of profound respect to the memory of their most illustrious member and beloved brother.

"Masons throughout the United States testify anew their reverence for the name of Washington and the inspiring example of his life. Distinguished representatives are here from all the grand lodges of the country to render the ceremonies as dignified and impressive as possible, and most cordial greetings have come from across our borders and from beyond the sea. "Not alone in this country, but throughout the world, have Masons taken especial interest in the observance of this centennial anniversary. The fraternity justly claims the immortal patriot as one of its members; the whole human family acknowledge him as one of its greatest benefactors. Public bodies, patriotic societies and other organizations, our citizens everywhere, have esteemed it a privilege to-day to pay their tribute to his memory and to the splendor of his achievements in the advancement of justice and liberty among men.

"His fair fame, secure in its immortality, shall shine through countless ages with undiminished lustre.

"The struggling republic for which Washington was willing to give his life and for which he ever freely spent his fortune, and which at all times was the object of his most earnest solicitude, has steadily and wonderfully developed along the lines which his sagacity and foresight carefully planned. It has stood every trial, and at the dawn of a new century is stronger than ever to carry forward its mission of liberty. During all the intervening years it has been true, forever true, to the precepts of the constitution which he and his illustrious colleagues framed for its guidance and government. He was the national architect, says Bancroft, the historian, and but for him the Nation could not have achieved its independence, could not have formed its union, could not have put the federal government into operation.

"He had neither precedent nor predecessor. His work was original and constructive and had successfully stood the several tests.

"He selected the site for the capitol of the republic, he founded and gave it the name of the Federal city, but the commission substituted the name of Washington as the more fitting, and to be a perpetual recognition of the services of the commander in chief of the Continental army, the president of the convention which framed the constitution and the first president of the republic. More than seventy millions of people acknowledge allegiance to the flag which he made triumphant. The Nation is his best eulogist and his noblest monument.

"I have been deeply interested and touched by the sentiments of his contemporaries, uttered a hundred years ago on the occasion of his death. The Rev. Walter King, of Norwich, Conn., in the course of an eloquent eulogy delivered in that city on January 8, 1800, said in part:

"By one mighty effort of manly resolution we were born anew, and declared our independence. Now commenced the bloody contest for everything we held dear. The same Almighty Being, by whose guidance we were hitherto conducted, beheld us with compassion, and saw what we needed—a pilot, a leader in the perilous enterprise we had undertaken. He called for Washington, already prepared, appointed him as His servant with regal dignity, and put into his hands the control of all our operations.

"But here admiration suppresses ut-

terance. Your own minds must fill out the active character of the man. A description of the warlike skill, the profound wisdom, the prudence, the heroism and integrity which he displayed in the character of the commander in chief would suffer materially in hands like mine. But this I may say—the eyes of all our American Israel were placed upon him as their savior, under the direction of Heaven, and they were not disappointed."

"The Rev. Nathan Strong, pastor of the North Presbyterian church in Hartford, spoke as follows on December 27, 1799:

"He was as much the angel of peace as of war, as much respected, as deeply revered in the political cabinet for a luminous coolness of disposition, whereby party jealousy became enlightened and ashamed of itself, as he was for a coolness of command in the dreadful moment when empires hung suspended on the fate of battle. His opinions became the opinions of the public body and every man was pleased with himself when he found he thought like Washington.

"Under the auspices of this great warrior, who was formed by the providence of God to defend his country, the war was ended and America ranked among the nations. He who might have been a monarch retired to his own Vernon, unclioed of all authority, to enjoy the bliss of being a free private citizen. This was a strange sight and gave a new triumph to human virtue—a triumph that hath never been exceeded in the history of the world, except it was by his second recess, which was from the presidency of the United States."

"And on the day preceding, December 26, 1799, in the course of his memorable funeral oration before both houses of Congress, Major General Lee, then a representative from the state of Virginia, gave utterance to the noble sentiment as forceful to-day as in those early years of our national life:

"To the horrid din of battle sweet peace succeeded, and our virtuous chief, mindful only of the common good, in a moment tempting personal aggrandizement, heeded the discontent of growing addition, and, surrendering his power into the hands from which he had received it, converted his sword into a plowshare, teaching an admiring world that to be truly great you must be truly good."

"While strong with his own generation, he is stronger even in the judgment of the generations which have followed. After a lapse of a century he is better appreciated, more perfectly understood, more thoroughly venerated and loved than when he lived. He remains an over-increasing influence for good in every part and sphere of action of the republic. He is recognized as not only the most far-sighted statesman of his generation, but as having had almost prophetic vision. He built not alone for his own time, but for the great future, and pointed to the rightful solution of many of the problems which were to arise in the years to come.

"John Adams, the immediate successor of Washington, said of him in an address to the senate on the 23d day December, 1799:

"For himself he had lived enough to life and to glory. For his fellow citizens, if their prayers could have been answered, he would have been immortal. His example is now complete, and it will teach wisdom and virtue to magistrates, citizens and men, not only in the present age, but in future generations, as long as our history shall be read."

"The Nation needs at this moment the help of his wise example. In dealing with our vast responsibilities we turn to him. We invoke the counsel of his life and character and courage. We summon his precepts that we may keep his pledges to maintain justice and law, education and morality and civil and religious liberty in every part of our country, the new as well as the old."

The services concluded with a benediction by Brother Ed. N. Calish, rabbi of Beth Ababa synagogue, Richmond, Va.

PROSPECTING FOR GOLD

In Alaska and the Many Sore Disappointments Which Befall the Over-Sanguine Tenderfoot Who Invades That Land of Glaciers and Gold Graphically Described by W. H. Egarter.

To the Editor of the Intelligencer.

SIR:—"Graveyard of endless aspirations, birthplace of countless hopes."

So I thought while the little steamer "Dora" carried me along the mountainous coast on my way to home and friends. How many people had ventured into it eighteen months before, their eyes aglow, their spirits enthusiastic, their views high-colored, their expectations unlimited. Many possessed so-called "tips" in the shape of maps and verbal directions. They would not have to search for gold mines! Indeed, no! They knew just where to go. A few weeks' work would amply repay all their trouble. Dig? What absurdity! They would pick nuggets from the sands, like pebbles, bag them and return in triumph to their expectant families and friends.

Several outfitting firms in Seattle, Portland and San Francisco knew all worth knowing about the country and told their susceptible customers of particularly rich streams, which were to be recognized by special birds and landmarks. Yes, miners bringing out measureless wealth several years previous had furnished these charts and descriptions. Had they spoken to these men? No, but they possessed friends whose friends had known a man whose uncle had met a gold digger who knew the "pard" of a prospector, or having traversed those regions, and though said prospector was now dead, his heirs were able to show maps left by him—maps with detailed information as to the location of valuable mines. Of course, these heirs guarded the secret jealously, yet in a moment of friendly confidence, they had imparted the welcome news to the prospectors' former friend, and let by way of this friend's nephew's friend it had been handed down to the present informant.

The average gold seeker was in such a state of excitement that he swallowed vague and improbable tales of this nature with greedy gullibility. Poor illusionists! you might have made them believe Alaska produced enormous waterworks of solid gold! Of the five thousand people entering the country at Valdez the majority



knew absolutely nothing of prospecting or mining. At the same time they were poor, having invested the only money they could raise in this dubious enterprise—many leaving families in almost destitute circumstances.

Again, the greater number had no business venturing into a terra incognita, lacking stamina, perseverance, energy and being born tied.

A powerful constitution was not the main essential. Nerves of iron and a will of steel proved requisites. I never saw a man's innermost powers so rapidly tested as in Alaska. Some saw the snow-covered mountains and cold fells, and never left the steamer till it once more touched the wharf at Seattle; others tried, sled pulling, and were found wanting. Many stuck to work for a month or two, but found the glacier with its storms and snowslides rather distasteful, and disappeared.

Then spring and boat-building! Have you ever whirled sawed lumber? You will know that even for a laboring man it is back and arm breaking. Imagine bank clerks, conductors, insurance men, teachers, tradesmen and the like doing it! Consequence? In four cases out of five a sudden malady known as "cold feet" resulted—i. e., home-sickness. Still many worked undaunted, completed their boats and started for the Copper River via Klutina. A number swamped and lost their goods a few days after the start; about two thousand reached Skagway at the head of the rapids (appropriate name) thirty miles in length, with numberless boulders, dangerous twists and bends and a fifteen-mile current. About three hundred attempted to shoot them; the rest camped above them. Three boats would start, and only one finish. The other two were upset—provisions, hardware, ammunition, everything lost, and the men barely saved. Strange to relate, though thousands of dollars worth of goods were devoured by the angry waters, no loss of life occurred.

However, miners hitherto unconquered now became disheartened and inactive. Some roped their boats through the rapids. To sum up, about eight hundred reached the Copper River, and of these, about four hundred began running over the country. They took enough provisions on their backs or in boats to last them several weeks. By the time they reached any favorable territory, rations ran short and necessitated a speedy return. Many seemed to have conceived the idea that that person was the best miner who could take the largest pack and walk the farthest. Naturally, no work being done, nobody was able to report favorably. I know what I say, when I state that three-fourths of all these would-be prospectors never applied a pick or shovel or washed a pan of dirt. They looked at surface indications and rendered a decision—no gold! True it continued till fall as regards the territory at the sources of the Copper, like-wise the Sulitla, Siana and other tributaries of the former.

The large mountains east of the Copper, Drum, Sanford, Wrangle and Tillman, received their quota of transient attention. Without trying, the verdict was: Red-rock can never be reached, hence it would be time-wasted if one undertook to dig! People who never moved from camp and people who ran over the country became alike discouraged. Tips and inside tracks became alike unavailable, no stream answering the given descriptions being found. Auctions took place daily, and prices dropped to almost nothing. So easy was the tenderfoot to be deceived that they deserted their entire outfit rather than try to realize a reasonable sum for them. By the score they departed—hopes blasted, theories exploded, illusions vanished, and reality frowning.

Who would acknowledge their defeat under the circumstances? They had promised their friends, relatives, and themselves so much, and now they were failures!

Do you think one out of the forty-five hundred for a moment accused himself for the outcome? The transportation companies, the newspapers and the country were to blame. Especially was the song and chorus: "There is no gold in Alaska!" Certainly this was a convenient mode of disguising personal short-comings and mismanagement. They were the people who gave Alaska the "black eye" it to-day bears.

Notwithstanding the exodus of the thousands, several hundred staid men stayed in the country. They prospected thoroughly and discovered creeks bearing gold in paying quantities, thereby giving the lie to that sweeping statement, "There is no gold."

While I am not prepared to estimate the output, while I realize the difficulty of getting at it, I will say that the opening of the country by the government, by constructing a trail from Valdez to Eagle City on the Yukon, for the purpose of mail transportation, the application of proper machinery, the facilities in connection with the coast, and perseverance will unearth vast wealth. I therefore consider the prospects of the coming years very favorable.

Alaska is not, as far as I can discern, a poor man's country. The country is large from a mineralogical point of view. Its mountains and valleys are beautiful. The formation is granite, slate, quartz, and shale. Iron and copper abound. Platinum is claimed to exist by assayers who analyzed specimens.

For my part, I am thoroughly satisfied with my venture, as my expectations were in no wise overstrung and the outcome has been quite gratifying. It is not possible to enter upon a discussion of Alaska at large. I have only endeavored to show why so many were disappointed in Alaska.

W. H. EGARTER.

Wheeling, Dec. 14.

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CRAWFORD TRIAL

Began Yesterday in the Ohio County Criminal Court, and

EXCITES GENERAL INTEREST.

The Prisoner is Charged With One of the Worst of Crimes, and Much of the Testimony is of a Character Unfit for Publication—His Ten-Year-Old Stepdaughter is the Victim of the Alleged Assault.

Yesterday in the criminal court, Judge Hugus, the case of John Crawford, charged with criminal assault on his ten-year-old stepdaughter, was put on trial. It occupied all day and will be continued to-day. The case is being fought stubbornly by opposing counsel as to the admission of certain testimony, especially by the defense, for Crawford's life hinges on the jury's finding. Criminal assault has a life penalty in this state.

Crawford, who is a man of large stature, is a Richland coal miner, and is about forty years of age. He is alleged to have assaulted the little girl on the night of October 31, while his wife, her mother, was visiting a neighboring house in "Red Row," inhabited by foreigners, to which he had insisted on her going. In her absence, he is said to have twice assaulted the girl, from the effects of which she hasn't fully recovered.

At the afternoon session there was considerable difficulty encountered in obtaining intelligent responses from one of the witnesses, owing to her woeful lack of English. The witnesses were nearly all wives of miners employed at the Richland coal works. The witness in question was Mrs. Markovitch. After stating to Prosecuting Attorney Meyer that she could talk English "putty vell," she was unable to fathom the other questions and returned blank, uncomprehensive stares.

Mrs. Markovitch was tried on German, Colonel "Fritzie" Colmar being pressed into service as an interpreter, but disappointment met every query of the Staats Zeitung's representative and he gave up the job in disgust. He suggested Mr. Louis Schwalb, who was sent for.

Mr. Schwalb could get but little out of her on Slavish, he discovering that her dialect was puncturable only to John Lubic, the Croation, of Benwood, or Mike Agnic, the North End saloonist. The state let it go at that, and Mrs. Markovitch was dismissed with a smile of relief on her work-worn countenance.

Corra Stout was the first witness, and the counsel for defense sought to show that she had been prompted in advance. She told a touching story of the assault by her "pappy."

The court decided that her little brother was incompetent to testify, being too young.

Other witnesses included Mrs. Hodgins, Mrs. Blake and Mrs. Hagerson, who lived in the "Red Row," in which was the Crawford house, and they told of seeing blood stains on visiting the house the morning after the assault, November 1.

The last witness of the day was Dr. W. W. Spargo, who had examined the girl. The testimony was nearly all of an unprintable character. Throughout it all Crawford sat stolidly.

The state's case is being handled by Prosecuting Attorney Meyer and Frank W. Nesbitt, and the defense by G. Cramer Caldwell and John Arbena, Jr. The jury is composed of the following: William K. Barekley, James Baird, William Bowers, H. C. Smith, Charles Strauss, Conrad Delist, W. P. Wayman, Henry Bell, Andrew Reitz, John Goldenberg, Fred Hayes and Edward Molter.

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